

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 ACDA-07 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /106 W

-----271229Z 078416 /14

R 271043Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4490  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1795

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, SU  
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI INAUGURATION SPEECH

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY. NIMEIRI INAUGURATION SPEECH DELIVERED MAY 24  
CONTAINED SEVERAL MAJOR POLICY STATEMENTS. WHILE SPEECH  
CONCENTRATED ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, NIMEIRI TOOK STEP AWAY  
FROM BRINK WITH ETHIOPIA AND ALSO HELD OUT OLIVE BRANCH TO  
HIS PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC OPPONENTS. HE INDICATED IMPORTANT  
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION POLICIES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED  
DURING SECOND TERM AND THERE WOULD BE MAJOR MOVE TOWARD  
DECENTRALIZATION. IN ECONOMIC AREA NIMEIRI INDICATED  
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GREATER ROLE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR AND IMPROVED INVESTMENT LAWS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. NIMEIRI DELIVERED MAJOR ADDRESS TUESDAY, MAY 24, ON  
OCCASION HIS INAUGURATION TO SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT  
OF SUDAN. SPEECH WAS DELIVERED AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY  
WHERE LARGE NUMBER FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING US

AMBASSADOR TO UN ANDREW YOUNG, WERE PRESENT. NIMEIRI'S SPEECH DEALT PRINCIPALLY WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES. NIMEIRI REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FIRST TERM AND SET OUT MAJOR POLICY GOALS FOR SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT. HIS THEME, IN GENERAL, WAS BASIS HAS BEEN SET TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSOLIDATION POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEED WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.

3. MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT HAD TO DO WITH ETHIOPIA. NIMEIRI NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA HAD REPERCUSSIONS ON AND WITHIN SUDAN, AND PRESENCE OF FOREIGN POWER (I.E. USSR) IN ETHIOPIA POSES SERIOUS THREAT WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED. DESPITE ALL THIS, NIMEIRI URGED ETHIOPIAN LEADERS TO STOP THEIR OPPRESSION AND FOLLOWING INTERESTS OF SOVIETS AGAINST INTERESTS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. ABYSSINIAN RULERS SHOULD REALIZE VIOLENCE AND LIQUIDATION ARE NOT ONLY MEANS OF SOLVING DIFFERENCES AMONG ETHNIC GROUPS. NIMEIRI SAID WHEN RULERS OF ABYSSINIA REALIZE FACTS OF MODERN AGE, APPRECIATE RELENTLESS MARCH IN HISTORY AND ACQUIRE WISDOM FROM IT, SUDAN WILL RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON UNITY OF ABYSSINIA AND ON ISSUE OF ERITREA. IT WILL NOT HESITATE THEN TO CONTRIBUTE WITH ALL ITS EFFORTS AND AVAILABLE MEANS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF MAJOR UNITY WITHIN ABYSSINIA. ON ERITREA IT WOULD PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY AND NOT AS MEDIATOR IN ANY DIALOGUE SEEKING JUST SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. SUCH A SOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS ITSELF TO LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF ERITREAN PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR DETERMINATION WITHOUT PREJUDICING VITAL INTERESTS OF ANY ONE OF PARTIES INVOLVED.

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4. NIMEIRI'S OTHER REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY DID NOT CONTAIN ANYTHING NEW. HE REAFFIRMED SUDAN'S PRESENT ARAB AND AFRICAN POLICIES AND WARNED AGAIN ABOUT QUOTE NEW SOCIALIST COLONIZATION UNQUOTE IN AFRICA. HE INDICATED SUDAN WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS BUT IT WILL NOT PERMIT ANY COUNTRY, BIG OR SMALL, TO THREATEN ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE SAID SUDAN WILL NOT INITIATE HOSTILITIES AGAINST ANYONE, BUT NEITHER WILL IT BE INTIMIDATED BY ANYONE TO SUBMIT TO ANY THREATS THAT ENDANGER SUDAN'S STABILITY AND SECURITY.

5. ON DOMESTIC ISSUES NIMEIRI RITUALISTICALLY PRAISED ARMY BUT WAS SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOR CARELESSNESS IN CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICIES. NIMEIRI SAID THAT NO IMPORTANT PERSONNEL CHANGES WOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY, BUT INDICATED SOME KEY OFFICIALS WOULD BE SHIFTED IN NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID HE WOULD REVIEW ROLES OF VICE-PRESIDENTS, ONE OF WHOM IS PRIMINISTER. IN MORE GENERAL TERMS NIMEIRI IN-

DICATED THERE WOULD BE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION  
SUDANGOV. THERE WOULD BE NEW EMPHASIS ON DECENTRALIZATION  
WHICH WOULD RESULT IN ABOLITION MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S LOCAL  
GOVT, AND OTHER MINISTRIES WHOSE MAJOR FUNCTIONS WILL BE  
UNDERTAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1795

6. NIMEIRI DISCUSSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SET AS  
GOAL FOR SUDAN THAT BY END OF HIS SECOND TERM IT NO LONGER  
BE ONE OF 25 POOREST COUNTRIES IN WORLD. OF SPECIAL  
INTEREST TO US AND OTHERS PROVIDING AID AND INVESTMENT IN  
SUDAN, NIMDIRI INDICATED, THOUGH PUBLIC SECTOR WILL  
CONTINUE MAINTAIN ITS ROLE AS LEADING SECTOR IN NATIONAL  
ECONOMY, DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN SOON WHICH WILL ALLOW  
PRIVATE SECTOR PLAY GREATER ROLE IN ECONOMIC LIFE OF  
SUDAN. NIMEIRI ALSO REFERRED TO MEETINGS AND CONVERSTATIONS  
HE HAS HAD WITH FOREIGN LEADERS WHO HAVE IMPRESSED HIM WITH  
IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN OF RATIONALIZING ITS INVESTMENT LAWS.  
HE SET AS MAJOR ECONOMIC GOALS IMPROVING CLIMATE FOR  
FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPING NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY  
WHICH WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OIL THAT MAY BE FOUND

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IN SUDAN AND WOULD DEVELOP COUNTRY'S HYDROELECTRIC AND SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL.

7. OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT WAS NIMEIRI'S CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO HIS LOCAL OPPONENTS. REFERRING TO REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS HERE AND ABROAD ASKING FOR AMNESTY AND NATIONAL CONCILIATION FOR OPPOSING FORCES ABROAD TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING OF THEIR COUNTRY INSTEAD OF BECOMING DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS, NIMEIRI SAID SOME OF THEM WERE MISLED AND SOME OF THEM HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED WITH REGRET WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS QUOTE SAD INCIDENTS UNQUOTE OF ABBA ISLAND IN MARCH 1970 WHICH RESULTED IN WANTON DESTRUCTION OF INNOCENT CITIZENS. NIMEIRI SAID HE WOULD NOT CLOSE DOOR OF NATION TO ANY REPENTING CITIZEN. HE SAID HE WOULD NEVER BE IMPEDIMENT IN WAY OF ANY FAITHFUL CITIZEN WHO WANTS RETURN, AND HE DIRECTED SUDANESE EMBASSIES ABROAD TO BE QUOTE OPEN-HEARTED AND LENIENT UNQUOTE TO THOSE WHO WISH RESPOND TO HIS WORDS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

8. COMMENT. NIMEIRI'S SPEECH WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AND WE UNDERSTAND LOCAL PUBLIC REACTION HAS ALSO BEEN GOOD. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CHEERED LOUDLY WHEN NIMEIRI DISCUSSED DECENTRALIZATION AND HIS PLANS ALLOW GREATER DECISION-MAKING POWER AT LOCAL LEVEL, AND ALSO RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HIS GOAL THAT SUDAN LEAVE RANKS OF 25 POOREST NATIONS. FOR SUDANESE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF SPEECH WAS NIMEIRI'S CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO HIS OPPONENTS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY AWARE HE WOULD MAKE THIS POINT (KHARTOUM 1740), HIS GESTURE CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO ALMOST EVERYONE. MAJORITY SUDANESE WOULD LIKE INTERNAL DIVISIONS WHICH THREATEN STABILITY OF COUNTRY TO BE PUT ASIDE IN FAVOR OF MOVING  
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FORWARD WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NIMEIRI UNDERSTANDS THIS AND INDEED IT WAS PRINCIPAL THEME OF HIS SPEECH. DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG MORNING MAY 24, NIMEIRI TOLD US THAT IN HIS SPEECH HE WOULD MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT REASON WITH ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE HIS REMARKS ON ETHIOPIA WERE MEANT TO BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY

AND SERIOUSLY, AND PERHAPS IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, UNTIL  
NOW AT LEAST, RADIO ADDIS ABABA HAS NOT, AS FAR AS WE  
KNOW, CRITICIZED (OR EVEN MENTIONED) NIMEIRI'S SPEECH.  
ON OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND ANTI-NIMEIRI BROADCASTS BY  
HUSSEIN AL-HINDI HAVE RESUMED. ON BALANCE SPEECH WAS  
GOOD FROM US POINT OF VIEW, SINCE NIMEIRI INDICATED  
MODERATION TOWARD HIS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENEMIES, AND  
IN ECONOMIC AREA HE OUTLINED POLICIES WHICH WOULD BE  
WELCOMED BY US AND OTHERS WHO WANT PARTICIPATE IN  
SUDANESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BOGOSIAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, ECON, SU, (NIMEIRI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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